

STRAFFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

August 29, 2017

MINUTES

Present at the Morrill Education Building at 7 p.m. were commission members: Kate Root, Mike Hebb, Jared Jenisch, Steve Faccio, Dave Paganelli, and Steve Willbanks, Chair.

- Minutes from 7/2/17 were approved.
- John Hemenway Memorial Bench: the fund for the Hemenway bench currently consists of \$1200. This would cover a bench without a back. There was discussion as to whether more money should be sought in order to procure a bench with a back; after viewing photos of benches consensus was reached that a bench without a back would be preferable. There was further discussion as to whether the plaque could be mounted on the ground in front of the bench; generally members seemed to be in favor of the plaque or engraving on the bench itself. It was asked, if the memorial lines were to be engraved on the seat, could there be some means of preventing water from collecting in the letters? The cost of installing the bench would be several hundred dollars more; it would be ideal if it could be transported and installed by local people rather than the company..
- Old City Falls: some of the hemlock steps are in danger of shifting, and nails keep popping up; Tim McCormick is concerned that someone might trip. He will replace 2 or 3 of the worst steps right away. Sherm may replace the rest this fall or next year.
- Trails: Mike proposed that 2-3 times a year a service could be provided to bring up anyone who was interested to the top of Whitcomb Hill, regardless of mobility. There is a section of road near the top, on Town land, that is not safe until improved. There was discussion as to whether \$500 from the Whitcomb Hill account should be used to repair the road and put in water bars; when it became clear that, independent of the question of whether people will be transported to the top of the the hill, road repairs are required to continue to allow the top of the hill to be safely mowed, all voted in favor of the repairs.
- Wetlands: Kate and Jared are meeting shortly to begin another round of wetland visits in early September. Mention was made of Tillinghast's wetland and Dave Paganelli's wetlands; Dave noted that there is great system of wetlands in the Podunk; he will lead a walk in at some point.
- Invasives: the road crew stopped roadside cutting due to extensive repair work required by damage from the July 4th storm. Dave noted a new growth of Japanese knotweed established on Kibling Hill road. Kate proposed a work party at some point to do some clearing. It was suggested that a good site for this would be the Town Forest.
- The next SCC meeting will be September 26th.